

MA THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

Public Information Department, 11150 East Blvd., Cleveland, Ohio 44106; 216/421-7340

PRESS RELEASE

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SYMPOSIUM ON ENGLISH DECORATIVE ARTS: 1840-1900

A one-day symposium on English Decorative Arts: 1840-1900 will explore the vital period in 19th-century Britain which generated many ideas and attitudes reflected in 20th-century international architecture and design. The symposium will be held at The Cleveland Museum of Art on Saturday, May 11, from 9:30 am to 5:00 pm. Each participant will be charged a \$25 registration fee, which includes lunch. Students will be admitted free but will not be provided lunch. Reservations may be made by mailing a check (or students, mail a request with name, phone number, and university affiliation) to The Cleveland Museum of Art, Department of Later Western Art, 11150 East Boulevard, Cleveland OH 44106. Tickets will be held at the door.

Beginning in Britain with A.N.W. Pugin and the Gothic revival which he launched in the decades before 1850, a clear line of design development can be traced through the arts and crafts movement to the first signals of modernism in the works of C.F.A. Voysey and others at the end of the century. From these designers, stylistic streams flowed to the European continent. French and Belgian designers expanded an ornamental vocabulary based on forms from nature to create the style we now call art nouveau, while in Vienna artists developed a more severely rectilinear mode, which became the basis of the international style of modern architecture as it emerged particularly in Germany and France in the 1920s.

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In the two morning sessions lecturers will provide background information on the development of the arts and crafts movement and high Victorian style. The title of the lecture of David Curry, curator of American art at the Denver Art Museum, is "Looking Backward: Early English Reform Decorative Arts." Martin Eidelberg, professor of art history, Rutgers University, will speak about "The Useful and the Beautiful: Reform Design in Britain."

In the afternoon session, three lecturers will discuss the design and manufacture of Victorian decorative arts. Lionel Lambourne, assistant keeper, department of paintings, at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, will discuss "Sticks or Planks? William Morris and Pre-Raphaelite Furniture." Duncan Simpson, Greater London Council, historic buildings division, will speak on "C.F.A. Voysey: Designer and Architect of Individuality." The last lecture is by Peter Rose, an author and formerly head of combined arts at Brighton Polytechnic; he will discuss "The Martin Brothers: Pioneer Studio Potters."

The symposium is sponsored by The Cleveland Museum of Art/Case Western Reserve University Joint Program in Art History. It is supported by a grant from The Morris and Maxeen Stone Philanthropic Foundation.

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For additional information, please contact the Public Information Office, The Cleveland Museum of Art, 11150 East Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44106; 216/421-7340.